



# ***ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL***

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011**

**5:30 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Public Comment**

### **III. Administrative Matters**

- Approval of minutes – December 21, 2010

### **IV. Reorganization – Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

### **IV. Old Business**

### **V. New Business**

- Steep Slope Ordinance Review
- Riparian Buffer Ordinance Review

### **VI. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 5:30 pm

### **VII. Adjourn**

#### **Pending Issues**

- BCTV Programming
- EPA Grants Available
- Education in Schools/EAC Summit

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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, December 21, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Present – H. Rauenzahn, D. Beane, J. Drayer (via speaker phone), B. Jennings - 4

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

**CALL TO ORDER**

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 5:42 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ms. Drayer, seconded by Dr. Jennings, to approve the November 30 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**BERNHART PARK REMEDIATION UPDATE**

Mr. Beane stated that a meeting was held including State, Federal and City officials, Exide, EPA and DEP. He stated that it was a good meeting. The City reviewed its objections to the revised work plan. Exide noted their willingness to work with the City to move the remediation forward.

Mr. Beane stated that the remediation level for lead will remain at 650 ppm and that the City is concerned with future liabilities. It was requested that Exide purchase liability insurance to alleviate this risk.

Mr. Beane stated that he has confirmed that Exide can purchase this type of insurance and is comfortable that they will do so.

Mr. Beane stated that work will begin in the spring and that Council must grant access to the park to Exide and authorize the work to begin. He stated that Exide will begin the paperwork necessary for Council action in February.

Ms. Hoag stated that the City has received notice from DEP that they would like the lake drawn down for the dam inspection at the same time that Exide is performing the park cleanup. She noted her concerns about the dangers of having the work performed simultaneously.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned why the lake needed to be drawn down and the dam inspected. Ms. Hoag explained that the dam inspection was requested several years ago but that it has not

been performed due to the unsafe conditions of the park. She noted that the scope of the park cleanup may be changed by the results of the dam inspection.

Mr. Beane stated that Mr. Younger should investigate the possibility of these two events occurring simultaneously. He expressed his belief that Exide may not wish DEP to be on-site during the cleanup. He reported that he has spoken with Mr. Younger and offered to review the access agreement prior to Council action.

Mr. Beane questioned how the City received notice from DEP. Ms. Hoag stated that it was a verbal request during the recent meeting. She stated that the City explained to DEP that the park must be remediated prior to the dam inspection to ensure the safety of workers. She noted that DEP has stated that the valves to raise and lower the lake level must also be in working condition but that she explained that the lake water is no longer used for a water supply and the operation of the valves is unnecessary.

Dr. Jennings questioned what Exide has done to eliminate lead emissions in the future to prevent the park from becoming contaminated again. Mr. Beane stated that they have decreased their current emissions. Ms. Hoag expressed her belief that the lead present now is legacy contamination from past operations.

Jeanne Ortiz arrived at this time.

Dr. Jennings questioned if more could be done at this time. Mr. Beane expressed his belief that the City has done as much as it can at this time.

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

Dr. Jennings stated that Albright students will not be going into Reading School District classrooms.

Ms. Rauenzahn noted her wish that the EAC make a presentation to Reading School District teachers during an in-service training. Ms. Ortiz stated that the PA Land Institute will be conducting an in-service at Nolde Forest for a week during the summer and will be targeting local teachers. She suggested that the EAC become part of this in-service.

Mr. Beane updated Ms. Ortiz on the discussions with the City's grants coordinator regarding her assistance with the EAC's grant applications. Ms. Ortiz informed those present that there is a "Together Green" grant which is a joint venture between Audubon and Toyota that is due in February.

Ms. Ortiz questioned if a canvas was done of other local environmentally focused groups to see what each group is working on and to develop partnerships. She stated that the County EAC is inactive and that the Berks Conservation District is not working to activate it.

The group began working on the planning chart provided by Ms. Ortiz in the past.

- The Flood Plain Ordinance was last updated in 2001
- Stream bank stabilization and restoration was a project the group wished to work on but in the long rather than short term
- Trees should be planted in areas not covered by the City's Shade Tree Ordinance
- The City is participating in the Treevitalize program
- There is no Steep Slope ordinance. Ms. Katzenmoyer will research other ordinances to determine if one is needed
- There is no Riparian Buffer Ordinance. Ms. Katzenmoyer will research other ordinances to determine if one is needed
- Water quality monitoring is not routinely conducted. It was suggested that the EAC work with local schools on this project
- The Storm Water Management Ordinance was last updated in 2008
- Eco-tourism was discussed with the possibility of working on this project in the future
- The EAC would like to work with other local entities on a "Buy Local" campaign
- The City is learning about using an Official Map
- The Zoning Ordinance was last updated in 2010
- The Shade Tree Ordinance was last updated in 1995. Ms. Hoag will work with the City Arborist to update this ordinance *Note: The City Arborist is currently working on an update*
- The Sign regulations were updated in 2010

Mr. Beane questioned the staffing of other EACs to determine how they work on projects. He questioned if each member spearheaded a project or if the entire EAC worked on one project at a time. Ms. Ortiz stated that most EACs are five members. She stated that subcommittees can be formed using people who are not voting members of the EAC. She stated that the EAC can also partner with other entities to work on multiple projects.

Ms. Ortiz stated that she will submit her recommendations for future projects based on the planning sessions held.

Mr. Beane stated his belief that working with subcommittees and establishing partnerships would increase the opportunities available to the EAC.

Ms. Ortiz suggested that the EAC begin reaching out to others to form partnerships.

Dr. Jennings suggested that each member reach out to organizations that they are involved in and ask for additional contacts. He stated that this will have a snowball effect and will be a quick means to gain the information.

Ms. Hoag stated that other area EACs do more plan review during the Planning process. Ms. Katzenmoyer reminded those present that she worked to involve the EAC in this process with no success. She stated that the SALDO is currently being reviewed.

Ms. Hoag suggested that EAC review of plans be written into the amendment.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will try again to have the EAC begin reviewing plans.

## **BCTV**

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that the next show will be held in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, January 25 at 5:30 pm in the Council Office.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk